



Sheila Dixon

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**Mayor Dixon Announces Athletic Contests and Entertainment for
the Baltimore International Festival**

Baltimore, MD (July 25, 2007) – Mayor Sheila Dixon announced the musical, cultural and athletic line-up for the Baltimore International Festival. The festival, which takes place on July 28th and 29th at Poly-Western High School and expects 35,000 attendees, is celebrating its tenth year. The theme for this year's festival is "One World One Beat One Baltimore."

"Every year the International Festival brings exciting and talented people to Baltimore," said Mayor Dixon. "It is important for people from all backgrounds to share in expressions of life from around the world."

The Baltimore International Festival presents a variety of cultural expressions from local, national, and international entertainers – musical artists, dance troupes, mimes, poets, and expressionists. Soccer teams representing more than 20 countries participate in a two-day international soccer exhibition highlighting 'the world's game.' Cuisine from over 30 nations along with arts, crafts, and jewelry are available for attendees at this free event.

Headlining the festival's main stage on Saturday night is platinum selling R&B artist Jeffrey Osborne. On Sunday night jazz flutist Bobbi Humphrey and saxophonist Ronnie Laws will close the festival.

Competing in this year's soccer competition will be teams from North America, South America, Asia, Europe, and Africa. The two-time champion, Cameroon-Spartan Football Club, returned this year to defend their title.

A new addition to the International Festival is the International Fashion Show. Travis Winkey and former 'Ms. India', Armrita Thapar, will serve as hosts. Fashion from around the world will be on display on Sunday afternoon.

"With all that the International Festival has become, it has never strayed away from its core mission to create an opportunity for people to come together to celebrate those things we have in common," said Alvin O. Gillard, Director of the Baltimore Community Relations Commission and International Festival Chairperson.

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